



The Healthy Dead

Steven Erikson

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Things are going all too well in the city of Quaint. So well, in fact, that something has to be done. The zeal for goodness can be catastrophic, and no-one knows this better than Bauchelain and Korbal Broach, two stalwart champions of all things bad. For the innumerable citizens of Quaint, driven to neurotic distraction and overwhelmed with good living, desperation breeds nefarious bed-mates, and before long the two homicidal necromancers — and their beleaguered and substance-addled manservant, Emancipor Reese — find themselves ensnared in a scheme to bring goodness into disrepute, if not utter ruination. To Reese's bemusement, laudable motivations are, in a bizarre twist, uncharacteristically relevant to Master Bauchelain, although, of course, the payment of a chest filled with gold helps. Even so, sometimes, it turns out, one must bring down civilization... in the name of civilization.

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The Healthy Dead Details

Date : Published December 1st 2005 by Night Shade (first published 2004)

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From Reader Review The Healthy Dead for online ebook

Kristen says

The society was well-developed and intriguing without containing pages and pages of backstory and history. Many fantasy authors have written about the all-powerful corrupt ruler, and reading about the problems caused by a ruler who took goodness to a tyrannical extreme was an interesting change of pace. King Macrotus may have had good intentions, but restricting his people for their own good did not endear him to anyone.

Full review:

<http://fantasycafe.blogspot.com/2009/...>

Karl says

Installment #2 of Steven Erikson's alternate series is titled "The Healthy Dead". It is a tale of Bauchelain and Korbal Broach, a couple of wild and wacky necromancers out to disturb the peace. In this chapter the city is taken over by a king who demands everyone become perfectly healthy, with no vices, lust or bad habits.

So something must be done! Mr. Erikson allows you to share in the hi-jinx to shine a bad light on all things good.

For those interested in such things, chronologically, this novella is set after "The Wurms of Blearmouth" and before "Crack'd Pot Trail".

This hardcover is copy 28 of 400 copies signed and numbered, by Steven Erikson and Paul Kearney who wrote the introduction.

Bruno Vasconcelos says

Another good short story from Erikson

Scott Hitchcock says

I think I need to re-read the early ones. These seem to get better as you get a feel for the over verbose nature they tend to have. Think Kruppe only evil for those who have read the main series and that flows into the narration as well as the characters but it can be hilarious.

James says

Probably the best of the Bauchelian and Korbal stories. This story read more like a Terry Pratchett novel than something set in the Malazan universe. I don't know how Erikson is able to write so many different tales, while keeping everything fresh and interesting. But so far I have enjoyed everything I've read. Onto Midnight Tides.

Rob says

...One of the things I like most about these novellas is that it forces Erikson to be more concise. The restrictions in length force him to focus and in this novella it works very well. Where *Blood Follows* feels a bit rushed at the end, this novella feels exactly long enough. Quite an achievement for a man who also produces sprawling 300,000 words novels almost like clockwork. *The Healthy Dead* just ticks all the boxes for me, I think it is a little gem. And the best thing is that you can read these novellas without having to read the ten huge volumes of the main series. It is a great way to sample Erikson's writing. I can't wait to see where Erikson is taking the story of the two necromancers and their unfortunate manservant.

Full Random Comments review

Stefan Bach says

Well, this was something... *fresh*.
Loved it. Highly satirical and overall enjoyable.

Leif says

Reading this reminded me that Erikson's novels and novellas are best when they're wholly self-immersed; when they try to make a point, as in this novella and the conceit of Quint, they become unfunny, predictable, and didactic. Emancipor Reese has good moments in this one at least, but Bauchelain becomes a little too chatty to maintain consistency with the others. Reading this for the second time, I found that I'd entirely repressed my memory of reading it the first time. I was able to discern the reasons for this as I progressed toward its end.

Juraj says

"Warning to lifestyle fascists everywhere. Don't read this or you'll go blind."

One of the best novellas I've ever read. A beautiful mirror of our "wanna-be-healthy" and socially just society that really doesn't work and... well as is stated in the novella so many times... will lead to the end of civilization :D

The characters have great witty names too - king Necrotus the Nihile or Nauseo Sloven.

It's probably the best way to introduce Erikson to somebody because it's not as long as GotM but it still contains the best aspects of his writing. I laughed aloud several times, too. Definitely the best novella from the first three and it should've won some awards when it was released.

The message it contains is timeless and wrapped up in a great and funny story.

Yoghurt!

Clint Roberts says

More light-hearted than the main series in a sense. Dark humor is what these stories serve up. Not necessary to enjoy the Malazan book and maybe that is why I am distracted reading them.

Mayim de Vries says

On the lethal side effects of orthorectic behaviours. Must read for lifestyle fascists.

J.P. Ashman says

Thoroughly enjoyable dark, humorous spin-off from the Malazan Book of the Fallen. Great characters. I read it a couple of years back but it still sticks with me.

Boris says

The

Samir says

This short macabre frenzy is a must read if you are a true Malazan fan. This was the funniest chaotic adventure of Bauchelain, Korbai and Emancipor Reese I've read. Who knew that healthy lifestyle could cause so much trouble?

ijeoma Agbaje says

I'm still curious about what role Korbai Broach & Bauchelain play in the bigger picture or if they even play a bigger role. Are these stories on the delectable duo just Erickson's way of showing his readers his wicked humour? I'm beginning to think so.

..."Desire for goodness Mister Reese, leads to earnestness. Earnestness in turn leads to sanctimonious self righteousness, which breeds intolerance, upon which harsh judgement quickly follows , yielding dire punishment, inflicting general terror and paranoia, eventually culminating in revolt, leading to chaos, then dissolution and thus the end of civilisation"

Lol look i'm convinced someone kept bugging Erikson to exercise more or add more vegetables to his food and he got annoyed and decided to write a tongue in cheek Korbal B & Bauchelain novel just to convey his feelings. I totally enjoyed the novella though, highly entertaining as all the novels in this itty bitty weird volume has been.

The book basically opens up in a place called Quaint where after the death of their previous King, the new king in power becomes obsessed with health. What follows is Erikson's trademark macabre humour which is top notch. Really enjoyed this novella.

#FitFam #VegetablesAreGoodForYou #DieHealthy

Enjoy!!
